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Great Wave of Crime in "Dry" Tennessee

Enforcing Prohibition Requires Half of Courts' Time

Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 25.—Officials of the various criminal courts of Tennessee and students of crime statistics have been much concerned for several months over a large increase of infractions against the laws of the state as reflected by the work of the grand juries. After having on the statutes of Tennessee for seven years a state-wide prohibition law, and a number of lesser laws designed and enacted to aid in the enforcement of the state-wide law, it was confidently expected by the advocates of prohibition that a material reduction would be noted in crime; but instead of a reduction there is a steady increase in practically every grade of crime, from public drunkenness to premeditated murder.

That grand juries have been busier than usual this fall is shown by an unprecedentedly large number of indictments in the more populous cities and counties. The criminal courts are clogged with business and jails and workhouses are full to overflowing. In some of the counties steps have been taken to enlarge the facilities of workhouses in order to care for the greater number of criminals convicted in the courts of petty crimes and sentenced to the workhouse under a small offense law.

Published lists of indictments show beyond doubt that fully fifty per cent. of the indictments returned by grand juries throughout the state are for violations of the prohibition laws and for public drunkenness. Half of the time of the criminal courts is taken up trying these cases. Every county in the state has its full quota of bootleggers and public drunks, to say nothing of blind tiger operators, and the prosecutions of these offenders keep criminal courts in perpetual session. But there has also been an increase in all other crimes, such as murder, robbery and larceny.

Hamilton county, of which Chattanooga is the capital, is the third county in point of population in the state, being exceeded by Davidson and Shelby only. The grand jury for the fall term of the criminal court of the county returned more than 700 true bills, the largest number ever returned by a single jury in the history of the county. The average number of true bills returned by a grand jury in the county during a period of ten years is about 400. This fall's record of 700 indictments, therefore, shows an increase in crime over the average record of about 75 per cent.

Judge S. D. McReynolds, of the criminal court, himself a prohibitionist, admitted that the work of this grand jury established a new high record of crime, and Prosecuting Attorney M. N. Whitaker, also a prohibitionist, said in an interview that he could not account for the large increase, after admitting the facts as shown by the grand jury's report. In the course of his interview Gen Whitaker took occasion to declare against constitutional prohibition in view of the fact that so much dissatisfaction exists with the prohibitive policy throughout the state and county that to place prohibition in a constitution would create opposition, if not contempt, for the org nic law.

In Davidson and Shelby counties, Nashville and Memphis being the respective capitals, the same growth of crime is shown. The total number of indictments returned at Nashville at the fall term of the criminal courts approximated 1,200, while the average of the past years for that county by a single grand jury is about 700. The grand juries of Shelby county, where the average record for one term of the criminal courts is about 800 indictments, have reported approximately 1,500 indictments for the fall term of court.

The cost of prosecuting offenders against the so-called temperance laws of the state has grown to large proportions.

The last biennial report of the State Comptroller shows that it cost the tax payers of the state $343,000 for the period to prosecute crime, whereas this item for the last year of a licensed liquor traffic in the state was $158,000. In view of the fact that there has been a large increase of prosecutions in the criminal courts during the present year, it is practically certain that the next biennial report on the cost bill will be near $400,000, the highest figure ever known in the state.

The above is a copy of a dispatch from Chattanooga, Tennessee, to the Washington, (D. C.) Herald of Dec. 25, 1915. Its publication is authorized by the Indiana Brewers Association.

PARTY SUFFRAGE RECORDS

Only Democratic Congressmen Appealed for Action.

Congressman C. C. Dill, of Washington, cites the records of the committee hearings on suffrage in Congress to prove that "the only Congressmen who have gone before the Judiciary Committee of Congress this year to ask that a suffrage amendment be voted upon have been Democratic members." He adds that "no others have appeared to ask for consideration of the measure. That is, I think, sufficient answer to any claim that the Democratic Party opposed Woman Suffrage."

This record need only be supplemented with the personal voting history of the rival Presidential candidates to show who is the real friend of suffrage. President Wilson made two trips from Washington to New Jersey to register and vote for Woman Suffrage when it was submitted in his State. Candidate Hughes did not take the trouble to register or to vote the same year—1915—when the suffrage amendment was submitted in his state.

"There is no means of judging the future except by assessing the past. Constructive action must be weighed against destructive comment and reaction." — From President Wilson's Speech of Acceptance.

WILSON A PROGRESSIVE BEFORE PARTY WAS BORN

Eighteen months before the birth of the Progressive Party, Woodrow Wilson, then Governor of New Jersey, gave this definition of a Progressive and so classified himself in an address before the Kansas Society of New York, January 29, 1911:

"By 'Radical' I understand one who goes too far; by 'Conservative' one who does not go far enough; by 'Reactionary' one who won't go at all. I suppose I must be a Progressive, which I take to be one who insists on recognizing new facts, adjusting policies to facts and circumstances as they arise."

Under Democratic influences during the six-year period since standpatism was overthrown in the House of Representatives in 1910, **ninety per cent of the program of reform advocated by the Progressive Party has been enacted into law.** "Invisible government," which is now making desperate efforts to "come back," has been driven from power under President Wilson's administration and will have no place in Washington so long as he is in the White House.

MEXICO IS COMING BACK.

Saved From Conquest, It Is Working Out Its Own Destiny.

Encouraging news continues to come from Mexico, and the tirades of President Wilson's critics grow tamer all the while. Mexico has seen much misfortune, has borne many trials, has experienced many tragedies, but there is a buoyancy to the present situation that gives cheer to friends of that long-suffering republic.

Americans, coming from that country, bring optimistic assurances. They declare that there is much better government there than for many years, that Carranza money is increasing in value, that business is picking up and that law is being respected.

The New York Evening Sun, a Republican newspaper, which usually criticises everything President Wilson does, is compelled to recognize the facts, telegraphed from San Antonio, Texas, by William G. Shepherd, war correspondent of the United Press, who has been one of the keenest observers of conditions both in Europe and Mexico. Mr. Shepherd, back from a long service abroad, was sent recently to the Mexican border. After a careful survey he reported conclusions which the Sun displays under the heading: "Mexico Coming Back; Business Grows Brisk—Confidence in Carranza Increases and Things Look Up." In part Mr. Shepherd says:

Mexico is coming back. It's not a dead rubber nation; it's got a bounce in it. A summary of the news from the heart of Mexico, gathered in the last three weeks along the border from Americans incoming from Mexico, shows beyond doubt that conditions are improving, confidence in Carranza is growing, the situation is gaining buoyancy, Carranza money is gaining in value and business is picking up.

DRY, DRY AGAIN.

[New York Sun.]

The slogan of the Prohibition candidate for President will be "Dry, dry again!"

A NARROW ESCAPE.

Presence of Mind In the Face of a Terrible Danger.

One of the strangest incidents of the sepoy rebellion is told by William Forbes Mitchell in his "Reminiscences of the Great Mutiny." Mr. Mitchell, who was sergeant of a highland regiment, had the misfortune during a battle to lose the greatcoat which every soldier carried folded in what was known as a "Crimean roll" and strapped to the shoulders in such a manner that it crossed the breast:

Many a man owed his life to the fact that bullets became spent in passing through these rolls. It happened that in the heat of the fight my roll was cut right through where the two ends were fastened together by the stroke of a keen edged tulwar, which was intended to cut me.

As the day was warm, I was rather glad to get rid of it, but by 10 o'clock at night there was a difference in temperature, and when I was relieved from patrol duty and wanted to lie down to sleep I felt the cold, wet grass anything but comfortable, for a kilt is not the most suitable article of dress on a cold November night in upper India.

My company was encamped in and about the tomb of the first king of Oudh. A large inclosure surrounded the building of the tomb itself, and on the inside of this were small rooms built for the accommodation of pilgrims. When I entered the inclosure I noticed these apartments and asked permission to sleep in one of them, but was refused. I had to make the best of my position, but was too uncomfortable to sleep.

It struck me that some of the sepoys might have dropped their blankets in their hurried departure. With this hope I went into one of the rooms where a lamp was burning, took it off the shelf and walked to the door of the great domed mosque or tomb.

I peered into the dark, but could see nothing, so I advanced slowly, holding the lamp over my head, looking cautiously around until I was in the center of the great vault, where my progress was obstructed by a big black heap about four or five feet high, which felt to my feet like loose sand.

I lowered my lamp and discovered I was standing ankle deep in loose gunpowder. About forty hundredweight of it lay under my nose, and a hasty glance around showed me twenty or thirty barrels of the same substance, over a hundred eight-inch shells, all loaded and with fuses fixed, and a profusion of spare fuses and slow matches lying about.

I took in my danger at a glance. There I was, up to my knees nearly in gunpowder, with a naked light in my hand. My hair literally stood on end, and my knees knocked together. Cold perspiration broke out all over me. I had neither cloth nor handkerchief in my pocket with which to extinguish my light, and the next moment might be my last, for the overhanging wick already threatened to send the smoldering red top to my feet, with consequences too dreadful to contemplate.

Quick as thought I put my left hand under the down dropping flame and, clasping it firmly, slowly turned to the door.

Fear so overcame all other sensation that I felt no pain of the burn until I was outside. Then it was sharp enough. I poured the oil from the lamp into my burned hand. Then I knelt down and thanked God.

Next I staggered to Captain Dawson and told him. He did not believe me and told me I had waked up from a dream. I showed him the powder still sticking on my wet feet. He instantly roused the sleeping men and quenched every spark of fire on the premises.

Impatient.

"Well, if that ain't the limit" mused the postman as he came down the steps of a private residence.

"What's the trouble?" queried the passing citizen, who had overheard the postman's noisy thought.

"Why," explained the man in gray, "the woman in that house says if I don't come along earlier she'll get her letters from some other carrier."—Chicago News.

THE GOSPEL OF THE SUGAR BEET

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley Preaches It to Farmers.

A WONDERFUL TRANSFORMER.

"Wherever the Sugar Beet Is Cultivated," Dr. Wiley Declares, "the Farmers Are All Prosperous"—America Fully Fifty Years Behind Europe.

"Farming p[illegible]s in vogue upon a great majority [illegible]e cultivated tracts in America a[illegible]plete." declares Dr. Harvey W. W[illegible]ormer chief chemist of the De[illegible]nt of Agriculture. "In agricultu[illegible] are fully fifty years behind Eu[illegible]e, and the better utilization of our l[illegible]m resources is one of the most important problems before the country.

"Old fashioned, slipshod methods of producing wheat and cotton and corn are still in vogue in over 95 per cent of the country devoted to these industries," said Dr. Wiley, continuing his impeachment of our lax farming

DR. HARVEY W. WILEY.

methods. "The growing of these crops until within a few years could not have been ranked as agriculture, but should have been described as highway robbery of the soil. As a result the average production per acre of these crops has fallen to a minimum.

"Farming, for one thing, must be made more attractive. It should be made more profitable. This will be done as our farmers learn more thoroughly the principles of intensive cultivation and get a knowledge of the methods of feeding the soil and of the rotation of crops.

"To this end I have been preaching for the past thirty years the gospel of the sugar beet.

"The production of the sugar beet requires the highest style of intensive culture that science has been able to suggest. The principles of feeding the sugar crops, the methods of culture and handling, the attention and skill of the workers, are such as to create in every field and factory devoted to sugar culture an agricultural experiment station of the highest type. The soil and climatic conditions in the greater part of the United States are thoroughly favorable to beet culture, and America is the greatest sugar market in the world.

"In the case of the sugar beet the crops which are grown in rotation with it yield very much larger returns than when the old fashioned system of agriculture prevailed. The reflex action of this influence becomes a benefit to American agriculture the value of which it would be difficult to measure in dollars and cents.

"Wherever the sugar beet is cultivated the farmers are all prosperous, no matter what kind of other crops they raise. The beet generally improves the productiveness of the soil in all kinds of agriculture. It causes the employment of more labor and indirectly benefits commerce and transportation and produces in every community conditions of prosperity in agriculture which it would be difficult to bring about in any other way.

"The culture of the beet brings into the neighborhood the large sugar factory using fuel and other raw material, with its complement of laborers and experts, thus giving a better and more profitable market to the surrounding farmers for all their products.

"While there has been a general tendency toward the reduction of tariff duties, this tendency has not reached in many cases the extent of the abolition of import duties altogether. In any changes of this sort let as much as possible be saved to the farmer. In view of the great importance of domestic sugar production to the prosperity of the American farmer, if tariff adjustments are to be made, I believe that this should be the last rather than the first point at which to remove the customs duty.

"One of the best things about sugar beet culture from the point of view of agricultural improvement is that it fits in so perfectly with dairying and stock growing. It is, of course, one of the elementary facts of practical dairying that the rearing and keeping of live stock affords the easiest, cheapest and most natural means of improving the fertility of the soil."

WITCHCRAFT IN ENGLAND.

The Last of the Judicial Prosecutions and Executions.

Sir Matthew Hale, it is true, had hanged two poor women at Cambridge in 1664, but a few years later Lord Chief Justice Holt set himself strongly against such charges and in every case tried before him directed the jury to bring in a verdict of acquittal. In a celebrated trial at Guildford in 1701 not only was the supposed witch found not guilty, but her false accuser, one John Hathaway, was condemned to a year's imprisonment and to stand in the pillory three times. Yet, horrible to relate, a woman named Hicks and her daughter, a child of nine, were hanged together at Huntingdon on July 28, 1716, for raising a storm of wind in league with the devil.

The last judicial sentence for witchcraft in England was in 1736, one Jane Wenham being actually found guilty, according to the indictment, of "conversing familiarly with the devil in the form of a cat." The judge, however, procured a reprieve for poor old Jane, and she was ultimately released, to end her days in peace.

Last, the witchcraft act was repealed for the United Kingdom in the same year. It was quite time, for only nine years earlier, in 1727, a woman was brought before Captain David Ross, deputy sheriff of Sutherland, charged with "causing her daughter to be shod by the devil," and so making her lame both in hands and feet. The fact having been proved to the captain's satisfaction, the old woman was put into a tar barrel and burned at Dornoch. The weather being cold at the time, we are told that she "sat composedly warming herself by the fire prepared to consume her while the other instruments of death were getting ready."

The last attempt to execute a witch in England ended disastrously for the perpetrators. In 1751 at Tring two old people named Osborne, man and wife, being suspected of witchcraft, were seized by a crowd, stripped, cross bound and thrown into a pond. Both died of this brutal treatment. But the witchcraft act had been repealed and, a verdict of willful murder having been returned against one Colley, the chief instigator of the assault, he was in due course tried and hanged.—Cornhill Magazine.

A man once lost an opportunity.

"Why don't you look where you are going?" growled the man.

"Don't you recognize me?" asked the opportunity pleasantly.

"No, and I don't care to. You have trodden on my corns," replied the man as he limped away.

Moral.—Don't believe the people who say they have never had a chance.—New York Times.

Sound Philosophy.

Of all methods of making another person angry and disagreeable the worst is to tell him that he will "have to" do something. How often do we hear, "You will have to go to the other window," "You will have to go into the other car," "You will have to wait an hour," "You will have to write the general passenger agent or superintendent," and the like! Primarily we are all free agents and don't "have to" do a darned thing. We may find it expedient or necessary to a certain end, but we don't even "have to" eat if we don't want to. How easy to put the direction in another manner, such as, "The other window, please," or "Will you kindly take the car ahead?" or "The rules require." A short, very short, explanation of why a certain thing is necessary will always work wonders in avoiding trouble.—Railroad Employee.

A WARNING.

The Utter Uselessness of Taking a Course In German.

A customer during a trying on asked her dressmaker, whose son was at college, if he were pursuing a general course or specializing in any particular branch. The answer came promptly, through a mouthful of pins:

"Sanskrit, ma'am. He's specializing in Sanskrit. I can't say but I'd have preferred something a bit more usual in the way of education—something more plain tailor made for every day like. Sanskrit's such a fussy study."

Her criticism, if oddly worded, was comprehensible and not unintelligent. Less reasonable and equally unexpected were the remarks of an old farmer in a remote hill village upon the favorite studies of his son. He had always been suspicious of the higher education and was far from pleased when his Joe, whom he wished to keep on the farm, obtained a scholarship.

"Languages may be all right for folks that's born to 'em in foreign parts," he declared recently, with impressive deliberation, "but a man that ain't had better talk plain Yankee and do things.

"To see that boy of mine sit down with a book ye can't read, saying over words ye can't sense,—jest putter, putter, mutter, mutter, sputter, sputter—why, it makes me fair sick. And for all he's been at it most a year, he can't make those Italians on the highway understand three words together. He owns himself he can't."

"It is Italian he is studying, then?" the listener murmured politely.

"No, 'tain't; it's German," admitted the old man in a reluctant growl. "But a precious poor excuse I call that, and so I told him.

"'I don't care if 'tain't their own lingo, Joe,' says I. 'It oughter come a long sight nigher to it than jest United States talk. Squeezed all up together the way folks be on the map o' Europe, course they must get used to each others' talk enough to make each other out.

"'Bet ye my Sunday-go-to-meeting hat,' I told him, 'if ye talked reel German to those Italians they'd understand ye!'

"But he can't. All he can do 's to set in a corner with his book, putter puttering and sputter sputtering.

"Don't ye talk to me about colleges! Joe's a warning."—Youth's Companion.

A Two Headed Baby.

Small Boy—Oh, come and look at this baby with a head on both ends!—Boston Telegraph.

The Welsh Note.

Here is what the Rev. John Evans tells us in reference to the way in which English was taught in Wales in the eighteenth century: "This school had several features unknown in the Welsh school of today. The Welsh note was one indispensable feature. This secured English conversation. It was a smooth piece of wood, like a flat inch rule, with the letters 'W. N.' carved on it. When any one was caught speaking Welsh the Welsh note was immediately handed to him, but the hand which held it at the end of the lesson was the one made to tingle in consequence, so it was a common occurrence for the child who had it to move about from pew to pew, craftily tempting others to speak Welsh. The sign of guilt therefore often changed hands until at last it rested in that which had to bear the burden of all the transgressions of that day."